

Supervisor Lesko and Councilwoman Bonner Announce "Free Love" Weekend at Animal Shelter on February 11 and 12

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Two-day event encourages adoptions of shelter animals for Valentines Day

Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Jane Bonner are pleased to announce that the Town of Brookhaven's Animal Shelter will once again celebrate an early Valentine's Day by hosting the "Free Love" Weekend on Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12. During the two-day event, the Animal Shelter will waive adoption fees for those who adopt a pet, provide free microchipping and free pet food. Last year, the event resulted in the adoption of sixteen dogs and five cats. The event times are Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

"I am proud of the great work that our Dori Scofield and our Animal Shelter staff do to help pets find loving homes," said Supervisor Lesko. "This Valentine's Day, show your love for a shelter animal and you will get more love back in return. I'm confident that we can build off of the great success of last year's event and ensure that even more of our residents adopt a dog or cat so they can experience the joy that a pet brings to a home."

Councilwoman Bonner said, "As a pet-owner myself, I am overjoyed that we are once again offering this opportunity for our residents to meet their new best friend. I would like to thank Dori Scofield and everyone at the Animal Shelter for all they do to make sure that pets find homes and are well taken care of."

The Brookhaven Town Animal Shelter has been very progressive in launching programs to increase adoption rates and pet retention and get animals spayed and neutered, especially focusing on the large population of Pit Bulls and Pit Mixes at the Animal Shelter.

Last year, the Animal Shelter introduced "Spay it Forward", a program that offers incentives to get animals spayed and neutered. For every Pit Bull that a resident gets spayed or neutered, the owner will receive a voucher to help another needy Pit Bull to receive the same services. The Animal Shelter is also providing free micro-chipping, vaccines, heartworm testing, and collars for anyone who gets their Pit Bull spayed or neutered.

The Brookhaven Bully Alliance (BBA) encourages other animal rescues to adopt Pit Bulls from the Brookhaven animal shelter and find loving homes for them. Every shelter dog that enters the BBA program is professionally evaluated, spayed or neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped. \$250 goes to each participating organization for the care of the animal.

An affiliate of the Town of Brookhaven Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, the mission of the Help the Animals Fund is to prevent cruelty to animals and to provide sick, neglected and injured stray animals at the Brookhaven Animal Shelter the much needed and deserved medical care that they would otherwise not receive. This fund is supported 100% by voluntary donations, which are tax deductible. The Help the Animals Fund makes programs like Spay it Forward and the Brookhaven Bully Alliance possible.

The Animal Shelter is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is located at 300 Horseblock Road in Brookhaven, NY 11719. For more information, call the Brookhaven Animal Shelter and Adoption Center at 631-286-4940 or visit www.brookhaven.org/animalshelter.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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